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April 14, 1962 - Saturday

As usual, the temperature was about 45 degrees today, until nightfall, when it fell. Also, as usual, there was a strong wind, which made walking unpleasant. I worked and read most of the day.

April 15, 1962 - Sunday

E and I went down this morning to Mereworth Castle, in Kent, to lunch with Ann and Michael Tree. I had not been there for thirty years. At that time, this beautiful place was owned by Esmond Harmsworth (now Rothermere). I remember fierce bouts of tennis with him on an indoor board court. For my own taste, Mereworth is about the best house, architecturally, in England. It was designed by Colin Campbell, the famous Scottish architect, after the Rotonda, near Vicenza. Although the Rotonda is considered one of Palladio's masterpieces, Mereworth, with its setting, magnificent cedar trees, the two lovely buildings on either side, is a superior work. The interior is magnificent, but at the same time comfortable. The Italian stucco workers who did much of the plaster adornment of Dytchley were responsible for the astonishing performance in the great hall at Mereworth.

The house is beautifully furnished, many of the pieces, tapestries, and various objects being of museum quality. This is hardly to be wondered at, since seldom, if ever, in a single family could there have been greater arbiters of interior decorating taste than Ronnie Tree his former wife, Nancy Lancaster, and Michael. The George Gages were there for lunch. It was the first time I ever met him. He is a great sportsman. In 1939 he kindly asked me to join his wife and himself, Nancy Lancaster, and another couple, on a yacht to be lent him by King Michael of Roumania, to shoot wildfowl in the Delta of the Danube. The trip was cancelled, probably fortunately for all of us, about ten days before the outbreak of war.

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even to forecast, circumstances where our respective interests might be too disparate to permit accommodation.

It would be most unnatural, in fact undesirable, if our policies were, like those in the Soviet system, always aligned as a result of secret agreements between us, or as a result of pressures exercised against each other.

Actually, there are a multitude of political involvements confronting us, in one foreign place or another, where no easy solution, no evident course of action, leaps to the eye. Before negotiating with others, we must negotiate with each other. I find this entirely reasonable. We have successfully been doing so, without other than transient discord, for more than a hundred and fifty years.

Where do such problems exist?

1. Laos
2. Berlin ~~(Difference re de facto recognition)~~ 3 Points,
3. West Germany ~~(UK has greater fear of reconstituted German Army)~~
4. Congo ~~(Attitudes re UN)~~
5. Colonial questions generally ~~(UK favors independence when natives have demonstrated ability to handle it)~~
6. China ~~(Irreconcilable, at present. Have agreed to disagree.)~~
7. NATO strategy, viz. conventional forces.
8. Common Market ~~(U.S. welcomes U.K. application)~~

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